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Docket No.: 21029-00182-US
(PATENT)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Alicja Borysowicz, et al

Application No.: 09/343,684

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: June 30, 1999

Examiner: S. Vincent

For: APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING GLASS MELTING AND/OR REFINING
FURNACES

#17/BM
3-10-03

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

DO NOT ENTER

OK TO ENTER

OK AS ENTERED

March 4, 2003

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2002, finally rejecting claims 10 and 12-18, the Examiner is requested to consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12-14, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (U.S. Patent No. 5,272,621) in view of Haissig (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,740) and Victor (IEEE Article). The Examiner relies upon Aoki for its teaching of using fuzzy logic with fuzzy prediction in a glass melting furnace. However, the claims are directed towards far more than that objective. Independent claim 10 includes a predictive network which defines various set point values assigned to furnace actuators. Storing operator set points corresponding to manual operation of the furnace actuators is also provided. A fuzzy logic controller is connected to a plurality of sensors, image means, the predictive network, and operator set point storing means and generates a plurality of output signals for respective actuators that will control melting in the furnace.